

# Arkansas and The Southern Regional Education Board

*This report details Arkansas's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in member states. Arkansas receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.*

## Leadership

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### SREB Board

Asa Hutchinson, Governor, 2015-16 Board Chair

Joyce Elliott, State Senator, Little Rock

Teresa Inman, Media Specialist, Paris Public Schools

Johnnie Roebuck, Former State Legislator and Retired Educator, Arkadelphia

Donnie Whitten, Superintendent, Arkadelphia School District

### SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Eddie L. Cheatham, State Senator, Crossett

Alan Clark, State Senator, Lonsdale

Bruce Cozart, State Representative, Hot Springs

Joyce Elliott, State Senator, Little Rock

Bill Gossage, State Representative, Ozark

# Policy

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## Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

*Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.*

Arkansas information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Arkansas. 2014 reports:

***Arkansas: Taking Stock and Moving Forward***

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

*High School to College and Careers, 2014*

*The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests*

*SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014*

*Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs*

*Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?*

*Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States*

*Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing*

More information: [Joan.Lord@SREB.org](mailto:Joan.Lord@SREB.org) or [Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org](mailto:Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211

## College and career readiness

*Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.*

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

Arkansas has made good progress in implementing these readiness actions. SREB leaders provided support for key readiness policies at several legislative and educational meetings in Arkansas.

More information: [Dave.Spence@SREB.org](mailto:Dave.Spence@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/Readiness](http://SREB.org/Readiness)

## Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

*Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.*

**SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015.** In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

More information: [Kim.Anderson@SREB.org](mailto:Kim.Anderson@SREB.org) | (404) 775-9366 | [SREB.org/1600](http://SREB.org/1600)

## English Learners

*Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.*

Arkansas sent a team to the conference, and a **fact sheet for Arkansas** includes population trends, state and federal policies, and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: [Dave.Spence@SREB.org](mailto:Dave.Spence@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/1785](http://SREB.org/1785)

## Educator effectiveness

*Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.*

At the request of the Arkansas Department of Education, the educator effectiveness team traveled to eight cities across Arkansas in May and **spoke with more than 100 teachers and administrators** in focus groups on the implementation of Arkansas's new educator evaluation system. The team will synthesize the feedback and provide recommendations to the department later this year.

Educator effectiveness staff met with state agency staff attending the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness meeting held by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Atlanta in April.

A representative from the Arkansas Department of Education attended **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** and networked with other SREB state leaders in Atlanta in February.

Staff refreshed the educator **effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January, which allows Arkansas policymakers to track bills across eight topics, including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Educator effectiveness staff updated Arkansas representatives on recent changes to **educator evaluation** at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meetings in December and at the Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff Meeting in October.

SREB released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October, which allows Arkansas policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

Staff provided expertise to Arkansas officials who attended the Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards meeting in August.

Andy Baxter, vice president of educator effectiveness, traveled to Little Rock three times this year to meet with the **Arkansas Department of Education** and provided technical assistance to those leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Arkansas:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: [Andy.Baxter@SREB.org](mailto:Andy.Baxter@SREB.org) | (704) 247-7497 | [SREB.org/EE](http://SREB.org/EE)

## Early childhood education

### SREB Early Childhood Commission

*Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015, and will publish its report later in 2015.*

Arkansas members of the Commission:

Joyce Elliott, State Senator

Johnnie Roebuck, Former State Legislator and Retired Educator

More information: [Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org](mailto:Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/EarlyLearning](http://SREB.org/EarlyLearning)

## Career and technical education

### SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

*Explored optional career pathway programs of study to help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.*

The Commission's April 2015 report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems and increase attainment of postsecondary credentials and degrees.

Arkansas members of the Commission:

Robert Gunter, Deputy Director, Division of Career and Technical Education, Arkansas Department of Career Technical Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

More information: [Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org](mailto:Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/CTECommission](http://SREB.org/CTECommission)

## Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of the 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

### SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

*Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.*

Arkansas members of the Commission:

Brett Powell, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Joyce Elliott, State Senator

Johnnie Roebuck, Former State Legislator and Retired Educator

More information: [Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org](mailto:Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/Affordability](http://SREB.org/Affordability)

### SREB Community College Commission

*Recommended statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.*

Arkansas members of the Commission:

Joyce Elliott, State Senator

Sheilla Lampkin, State Representative

More information: [Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org](mailto:Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/CommunityColleges](http://SREB.org/CommunityColleges)

## State Services

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*Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.*

SREB staff visited Arkansas to meet with the governor, legislators and staff, and attended committee meetings in January 2015.

*Custom information by request of Arkansas policymakers and staff:*

Legislative staff and legislator: educational technology

Legislator: nepotism policies

Legislator: reverse transfer

Staff: educational progress

Legislator: early childhood education issues

Legislative staff: education governance

Legislator: cursive writing

Governor's staff: computer programming courses

Staff: principal surveys

Staff: student growth measures

More information: [Gale.Gaines@SREB.org](mailto:Gale.Gaines@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5582 | [SREB.org/StateServices](http://SREB.org/StateServices)

## Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

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### Scaling Powerful Teaching Tools Statewide

*Innovative professional development to help Arkansas implement the Literacy Design Collaborative and the Mathematics Design Collaborative.*

Since fall 2011, SREB and the Arkansas Department of Education have partnered to pilot a model to scale LDC and MDC strategies statewide. SREB worked intensively in **48 high schools** and laid the foundation for LDC and MDC adoption in more than **300 high schools** by preparing regional and state-level certified trainer-coaches (more than 30 for LDC and 25 for MDC).

### Literacy Design Collaborative

*A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards such as the Common Core. Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content, while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.*

Arkansas participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **304**

Additional teachers trained by teacher experts: **1,216**

Number of schools: **224**

**Oden High School** in Oden, Arkansas, is featured for its Literacy Design Collaborative implementation in a September 2014 publication of vignettes from SREB, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

### Mathematics Design Collaborative

*A teaching framework to help students understand basic mathematics concepts, become fluent with mathematics procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB's innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.*

Arkansas participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **152**

Additional teachers trained by teacher experts: **304**

Number of schools: **224**

**Oden High School** in Oden, **Sheridan High School** in Sheridan and **Umpire High School** in Umpire are each featured in SREB's September 2014 publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*, which showcases teachers' success in implementing the Mathematics Design Collaborative.

More information: [Dan.Mollette@SREB.org](mailto:Dan.Mollette@SREB.org) | (404) 962-9623 | [SREB.org/LDCMDC](http://SREB.org/LDCMDC)

### High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

*Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 15-18.*

Arkansas attendees at the July 2014 conference: **254**

More information: [Anna.Johnston@SREB.org](mailto:Anna.Johnston@SREB.org) | (404) 962-9629 | [SREB.org/SummerConference](http://SREB.org/SummerConference)

### College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

*Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 13-15.*

Arkansas attendees at the July 2014 conference: **121**

More information: [Anna.Johnston@SREB.org](mailto:Anna.Johnston@SREB.org) | (404) 962-9629 | [SREB.org/1615](http://SREB.org/1615)

### National Professional Development Workshops

*Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College and Career Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.*

Arkansas teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **13**

More information: [Anna.Johnston@SREB.org](mailto:Anna.Johnston@SREB.org) | (404) 962-9629 | [SREB.org/PD](http://SREB.org/PD)

## Principals

### Learning-Centered Leadership Program

*Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.*

Arkansas attendees at the 2014 Annual Leadership Forum: **8**

More information: [Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org](mailto:Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5591 | [SREB.org/Leadership](http://SREB.org/Leadership)

## State Leaders' Forum

*A convening of state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies for high-quality career and technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.*

Arkansas attendees at the November 2014 Forum: 8

More information: [Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org](mailto:Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211

# High School and Middle Grades Improvement

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## SREB Readiness Courses Math Ready and Literacy Ready

### *Ready for postsecondary study*

*SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.*

**Arkansas** was one of the five original members of the consortium of states established to develop the SREB Readiness Courses, contributing a team of talented writers from K-12 and higher education. Arkansas piloted the courses in 2013. SREB is working closely with Arkansas K-12 and postsecondary agencies to implement the courses and with state education agencies to offer teacher training in Arkansas for summer 2015.

At the invitation of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, SREB staff presented on the SREB Readiness Courses at an October 2014 meeting of Arkansas leaders involved with PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). As the state prepares for the transition to the PARCC assessment, **Arkansas** is fully implementing the SREB Readiness Courses to help students who do not meet the new college- and career-career readiness benchmarks.

### *Ready for high school*

*Building on its Readiness Courses for high school students, SREB is working with states to develop courses for the transition from middle grades to high school. Underprepared students will take the classes in eighth or ninth grade. The courses will be available at no cost to schools in all states starting in 2016-17.*

Middle school and high school teachers from **Arkansas** are participating in the development of the new courses.

More information: [John.Squires@SREB.org](mailto:John.Squires@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/Ready](http://SREB.org/Ready)

## Advanced Career

*A new approach to career and technical education that combines college-readiness academic content with a sequence of four courses designed around hands-on, project-based assignments. The aim is to prepare more students for as many career options as possible in emerging high-demand, high-wage fields such as health informatics, and energy and power.*



As one of nine state members of the Advanced Career consortium, Arkansas worked with SREB and local higher education and economic development leaders to develop the **innovations in science and technology** pathway. Participants from four other states implemented this pathway at their schools in fall 2014.

**All four courses in the AC innovations in science and technology pathway curriculum** were implemented in Arkansas at Pocahontas High School by 2014-15.

Working with the state's trainers for the pathway program, SREB co-facilitated a 2014 Summer Teacher Training Institute for the pathway for teachers from all states. Teacher Travis James at **Pocahontas High School** is the master trainer for this pathway and will facilitate two Summer Teacher Training Institutes in 2015.

More information: [Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org](mailto:Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/AC](http://SREB.org/AC)

## High Schools That Work

*Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.*

### *HSTW State Network*

*Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.*

**Arkansas is a member** of the High Schools That Work state network, through which **44 schools** were active in 2014-15.

Charisse Childer, CTE Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education, serves on the HSTW Board.

Tim Johnston, Arkansas Department of Career Education, is the Arkansas HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: [Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org](mailto:Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/HSTW](http://SREB.org/HSTW)

### *Contracts for Direct Support*

*Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.*

**Fountain Lake High School** in Hot Springs contracted with SREB for direct support to improve guidance and advisement services to students. An SREB trainer worked with the school to help outline career pathways and identify options for Advanced Career programs for students.

More information: [Rhenida.Rennie@SREB.org](mailto:Rhenida.Rennie@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5531 | [SREB.org/HSTW](http://SREB.org/HSTW)

### *HSTW Assessment*

*Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.*

In Arkansas, **19 schools** participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: [Fran.Cowart@SREB.org](mailto:Fran.Cowart@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5611

### *2014 Award-Winning Schools*

*HSTW Platinum High Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment, and at least 85 percent of students met at least one readiness goal, one or more parts of the recommended curriculum, and at least one recommended concentration. Schools are classified as high implementation sites and met state AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following schools earned the award in 2014:*

**El Dorado High School**, El Dorado  
**Lake Hamilton High School**, Percy  
**Lakeside High School**, Hot Springs  
**Siloam Springs High School**, Siloam Springs  
**Springdale High School**, Springdale  
**Arkadelphia High School**, Arkadelphia (Honorable Mention)

*Technology Centers That Work Platinum High Achievement Centers participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment, were classified as high implementation sites, and at least 75 percent of students met at least one readiness goal and one or more parts of the recommended curriculum, and at least 45 percent of students experienced an intensive emphasis on quality career-tech studies. The following centers earned the award:*

**Southeast Arkansas Community-Based Education Center**, Warren  
**National Park Technology Center** (2012 and 2014), Hot Springs

More information: [Fran.Cowart@SREB.org](mailto:Fran.Cowart@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5611

### *Special Board Meeting*

*SREB's HSTW initiative held a special board meeting in March devoted to strengthening the HSTW instructional design to build college and career pathways that link high schools, workplace learning, and community and technical colleges. The goal is to increase the percentage of young people who earn a credible credential by age 25.*

Arkansas participant in the March 2015 HSTW board meeting:  
Tim Johnson, Arkansas Department of Career and Technical Education

### **Making Middle Grades Work**

*Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.*

In Arkansas, in 2014-15, **four schools** were active in the network, and **13 schools** received on-site professional development.

### *The MMGW Student Survey*

*During 2014, one Arkansas school participated in the MMGW Teacher Survey or MMGW Student Survey, which measures student perceptions of school and classroom practices.*

More information: [Deborah.Bass@SREB.org](mailto:Deborah.Bass@SREB.org) | (404) 788-1235 | [SREB.org/MMGW](http://SREB.org/MMGW)

## Technology Centers That Work

*Helps shared-time centers produce high-demand, high-wage graduates. SREB provides staff development, technical assistance, publications and assessment services. The network includes almost 200 sites in 18 states.*

In Arkansas, during 2014-15, **11 centers** were active in the TCTW network, and **nine centers** participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: [Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org](mailto:Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org) or [Lynda.Jackson@SREB.org](mailto:Lynda.Jackson@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/TCTW](http://SREB.org/TCTW)

## Counseling for Careers

*Helps students align career pathway programs of study to career goals, postsecondary studies and employment. SREB works with districts and schools so teachers, counselors, administrators, parents and community partners can advise students on career opportunities, career pathway programs of study, work-based learning experiences, postsecondary education and training opportunities.*

SREB is working with the **Arkansas Department of Career and Technical Education** on teacher advisement, career academies and freshmen exploratory courses.

Sixty-four educators received professional development at **Fountain Lake High School** in **Hot Springs**. The middle grades and high school are currently implementing advisement and freshmen transition, programs of study, education and career exploration.

More information: [Lynn.Anderson@SREB.org](mailto:Lynn.Anderson@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5610

# Higher Education Programs and Services

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## Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

### Academic Common Market

*Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.*

Participating Arkansas students, calendar year 2014: **95**

ACM State representative:

Delores Logan, Academic Common Market Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

An Arkansas representative attended the 2015 Academic Common Market annual meeting webinar.

### Electronic Campus

*Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.*

Programs provided by Arkansas institutions as of April 2015: **93**

Arkansas EC Representative:

Alana Boles, Program Specialist, Academic Affairs, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

## Regional Contract Program

*Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year. SREB is the fiscal agent for the contract program and handles administrative duties for the states without any additional fees to the state, participating institutions or students.*

Through the SREB Regional Contract Program, Arkansas residents can enroll in health programs to which they otherwise may not have access to, including dentistry, optometry, and osteopathic, podiatric and veterinary medicine. For the 2014-15 academic year, **184 Arkansas residents** participated in this SREB program.

RCP State Representative:

Elyse Price, Program Specialist, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

## SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA, or the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Arkansas participates in SECRRRA. Arkansas has submitted its state SARA application. Arkansas will have a representative on the SREB SARA Steering Committee.

SARA Representative:

Alana Boles, Program Specialist, Academic Affairs, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

More information: [Mary.Larson@SREB.org](mailto:Mary.Larson@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/1083](http://SREB.org/1083)

## Comparative data

### SREB-State Data Exchange

*Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.*

Participating agencies and their 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinators:

Arkansas Department of Higher Education: Rick Jenkins, Associate Director, Planning and Accountability

Arkansas Department of Career Education: TBA

## SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

*One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at [SREB.org/Data](http://SREB.org/Data).*

Arkansas leaders receive the annual ***SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report***, the ***SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, as well as ***Arkansas: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, ***Fact Book Bulletins*** and special reports.

More information: [Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org](mailto:Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5546 | [SREB.org/Data](http://SREB.org/Data)

## Nursing education

### Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

*Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.*

In Arkansas, **six institutions** participate in the Council.

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions on the Council:

Arkansas State University: Marilyn Duran, Chair

Arkansas Tech University: Rebecca Burris, Head; Nursing Council: Government Relations Chair

Harding University: Susan Kehl, Dean

University of Arkansas at Fayette: Pegge L. Bell, Director; Nursing Council: Nominating Committee

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences: Jean McSweeney, Interim Dean

University of Central Arkansas: Barbara G. Williams, Chair

More information: [Eula.Aiken@SREB.org](mailto:Eula.Aiken@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5567 | [SREB.org/Nursing](http://SREB.org/Nursing)

## Minority Ph.D. scholars

### SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

*Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.*

Scholars funded by Arkansas in 2014-15: **7**

2014 Institute attendees from Arkansas: **28**

Scholars Arkansas has supported since joining in 1996: **92**

Graduates since 1996: **58**

Graduates currently employed: **51**

Percent employed in education: **76**

*Arkansas-supported students have attended these institutions since 1996:*

Arkansas State University	University of Iowa
Jackson State University	University of Kentucky
Mississippi State University	University of Maryland-Baltimore County
Oklahoma State University	University of Mississippi
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Texas Christian University	University of New Mexico
University of Alabama at Birmingham	University of New Orleans
University of Arkansas	University of Northern Colorado
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	University of South Carolina
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences	Vanderbilt University
University of Central Arkansas	Wichita State University
University of Georgia	

Doctoral Scholars Program Regional Advisory Committee Representative:

Lisa Smith, Assistant Coordinator of Financial Aid, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

More information: [Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org](mailto:Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5573 | [SREB.org/DoctoralScholars](http://SREB.org/DoctoralScholars)

## Interstate Cooperatives

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### Educational Technology Cooperative

*Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.*

Arkansas member agencies and representatives for membership year 2014-15:

Arkansas Department of Education: Cathi Swan, State Coordinator, K-12 Distance Education

Arkansas Department of Higher Education: Shane Broadway, Interim Director

Arkansas sent attendees to the 2014 annual meeting, and Arkansas's ETC representatives helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**.

Cathi Swan serves on the ETC Executive Committee to guide the ETC in leveraging current and future technologies for the benefit of students and staff across the K-20 academic continuum.

More information: [Wanda.Barker@SREB.org](mailto:Wanda.Barker@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/EdTech](http://SREB.org/EdTech)

## Technology Purchasing Savings

*Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.*

Arkansas technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$342,500**

More information: [Camille.Martin@SREB.org](mailto:Camille.Martin@SREB.org) | (404) 875-9211 | [SREB.org/1697](http://SREB.org/1697)

## Go Alliance

*An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.*

**Arkansas** participates in Go Alliance.

Representative:

Brandi Hinkle, Communications Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

*“The SREB Go Alliance is a terrific resource for a small state such as Arkansas. The relationships with others in higher education who face the same challenges are invaluable when it comes to choosing how to focus our programs each year. We appreciate the work and research done for our region and Arkansas, along with the training and networking available through Go Alliance.”*

— Brandi Hinkle, **Arkansas Department of Higher Education**

More information: [AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org](mailto:AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org) | (404) 879-5601 | [SREB.org/GoAlliance](http://SREB.org/GoAlliance)

*The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region's track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.*